

THE KALIDA VENTURE.

Equal Laws—Equal Rights, and Equal Burdens—the Constitution and its Currency.

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WHOLE NO. 558.

A MEXICAN TALE.

The Yankee at the Carnival.

Don Marble used to tell the following tale of a Yankee's impertinence at a Carnival: In the city of Mexico it is customary, as it is in all Spanish countries, to have a grand carnival at least once a year, when "all hands and the cook," big and little, rich and poor, old and young, patrician and plebeian, male and female, turn out with banners, music, and all manner, sort, size, and description of grotesque costume, and paraphernalia to mingle in common in the grand "ale de la nation." A great procession, of course, is gotten up upon this immense occasion, and in which many scriptural and historical tableaux are formed, where, in apostles of history are duly represented as taking active parts in the proceedings of the day, and cutting no small figures in the general parade.

Among other persons represented is the Saviour, with his loincloth robe and girdle about him, and carrying upon his shoulders a large and weighty cross. The character always requires its support to be a *homo fortis strenuus, sibi constans*, as well as sturdy in body, and serene and even-tempered in mind; hence, as from the rabble *leproso* to the highest ranking Don, Donnas, Duenas, Senoritas, rag-rag and hobnob of the populace, from door-ways, balconies and housetops along where the procession passes, make it a point, or interesting part of the performance, to assail the representatives of the apostles, especially the Saviour, with all manner of indecorous and filthy missiles, such as decayed oranges, bananas, defunct cats, and rotten eggs, and all other evil and malicious substances come aptly to the hand upon this all-absorbing occasion.

This general dealing out of the afore-said substances is done to portray the scourging the Saviour and the apostles received from the Jews in the days of the ancients. But the performer of the part is supposed to take it all in fun, of course; so that it is very evident that the part requires a no ordinary submissive non-resistant to "keep cool." In fact, it is always with much difficulty that a willing actor of the part can be procured, although he is generally paid liberally for the performance.

Once upon a time, when the grand carnival was at hand, and the "committee of arrangements," as we say in the States, were casting about for a victim to play the principal part, as above described, and which the old Dons, or committee men, found the greatest possible difficulty to effect, an estray *Americano*, a real importation from the great onion beds of Weatherfield, in Connecticut, was espied afar off, coming down towards the Grand Plaza, a long cigar in his mouth, humming "Hail Columby" between puffa, and whittling a stick with a mighty smart chance of a dirk-knife, by way of natural pastime. An idea struck one of the Dons—he knew *Americano* loved money; so a brief parley of the Dons "fixed it," that there was a man for their money. "Down East" was telegraphed by one of the committee, and up he came.

"Mornin' squire; guess how you want to see me?"

"Si, senor," said the Don, in very fair English, "you not want ze work, eh?"

"Du I want a job? Wall, yes, haint no objection if it pays well; fur you see, squire, I'm an e-l-ranal ways down here from him, and between you and I, squire—as my grand-dad used to observe—Belzebub might dance a reel in my pocket without dangerin' his shine against silver."

"Ah, yes, veri vell, you shall have de goot pay for ze work."

"Jest so; 'spose of I. I must be so bold as to ax the question, squire, what must the nature of the business be you'd like a feller to engage fur?"

"Ah, ha, senor! you shall wait a leetle—you shall see by ze by; follow me, senor *Americano*, follow me; you shall see me business by ze by—follow me."

"O, ye-es! I'm there—ollers on hand when hisness is about."

So folding up his tooth-pick, Connecticut thrust both hands into the deep and empty recesses of his pockets, puffed his cigar into a blaze, and fell into the wake of the Don, whom he followed to his residence.

Here Don East learned the curious and arduous nature of the job he was to perform. For a while he hesitated, perplexed, to settle in his own mind a doubtful point of morality in risking such liberties with so sacred a personage as he was to represent. It wasn't the way he was brought up; thoughts of home and pious injunctions of his old mammy, worse confounded him in his scruples, and "Down East" was really on the point of flinching, when the Don mentioned the fee was to be a real pistareno, all in gold, and paid down on the spot. "Down East" was in want of that article, and prudently whispered in his ear not to be too nice about matters.

"Look-a-here, squire, I sort o' don't

like the idea of this business, now down-a-out way, you see—haint never been down in Connecticut, I reckon?"

"No, senor; never vas down in ze noochcot."

"Wall, quite, I'm from Connecticut—I am, and I tell you the folks there are awfully religious; fact! and of Dancon Smith would ever clap his old goggles on me dressed up in them clothes, and representin' on our Saviour, in the streets of your Mexico, pepper der salt of the purest description wouldn't save me, fact! I should be turned clean out o' meetin'—swoon I should! But then your wages haint bad; five dollar's pooty good wages for a day's work. Yeou, look-a-here, I 'spose it's all right and scriptural about these diggins? folks waint think none the worse of a feller fur doin' what's lawful and scriptural?"

"Oh, no, senor, veri goot, veri sacred, veri grand performance. Senor vill not mind ze trouble—ze people vas vill disturb senor in ze march of ze procession his way along; dat is all."

"O, darn 'em! I shan't mind their non-sense; fork over your power, and I'm up for the job, anyhow!"

The next day the grand carnival commenced; the grand procession was marshalled, out in great splendor and strength. "Down East" was on hand, all rigged up in his apostolic robes, girdle, sandals, and his great burdensome cross, with his bare head and clean shaved face, as smooth as a pumpkin. The grand marshal of the day having gotten all to rights, the command was given to "forward—march!" The Yankee shouldered his cross, and set out on his pilgrimage at the head of the procession to meander the crowded and tumultuous thoroughfare. For a while all went on slick as grease; the silvered melodious chime of the great cathedral, floated in soft cadence upon the air; the chorons of thousands mingled their voices with the soft tones of the bells; and "Down East" was quite delighted with the scene around him, as well as with the idea of the pleasant (I) way by which he was to pocket the gold of the Mexicans.

But alas! how delusive are all earthly hopes and surmises! He had not gotten fairly into the business yet, when was quite a different thing about noon, when the *specter* began to move the multitude; when the crowd began to circulate their missiles; when a friendly *saluta* of soft banana was returned with interest by a friendly but odoriferous egg!

Now "Down East" began to smell trouble brewing; nor did he wait long for his foreboding anxiety before his worst fears were duly realized, and his character was favored with that marked distinction and attention promised him by his employer. But Connecticut kept quietly along; the veneration he bore the person he represented, seemed to have endowed him with the Christian meekness and resignation of the world's Saviour himself!

As he marched along the offensive missiles became more and more pressing; every street he turned into appeared more strongly raked by the odorous projectile-armed caballeros, Dons, Senoritas, and those dirty hounds, the leproso, all, to "Down East" disgustingly profuse of their nasty favors. In the course of their pilgrimage through the city, the grand procession all, and "Down East" in particular, were well spattered with the favors of the rabble, and Connecticut in his heart began to feel anything but piously disposed towards his assailants.

The grand parade was just coming out of a long street in the vicinity of the Plaza; a levy of Senoritas were posted up in a balcony of the corner house, armed to the teeth with hand baskets and aprons full of rotten fruit. "Down East's" heart trembled within him, and as he turned his head to the opposite corner, to his horror and disgust there stood a mob of dirty greasers, rascal rabble, ready to give the procession, especially the apostolic part of it, *Jeszy*!

When fairly abreast of the balcony, the girls let slide a shower of rotten bananas, oranges, &c.; a brace of these filthy presents took the Yankee fair in the cheek, and nearly blinded one eye. Connecticut's sweat ran, his eyes flashed fire, and his nostrils spread like those of the war-horse, the blood of all "down east" was boiling in his veins. He "ground arms" with his lumbering cross, and came to a dead halt; to pass the rabble awaiting his approach, seemed to him as inklike as the pass of Lodin to Napoleon's army; but while thus at a halt, a perfect sluice of missiles came at him, right and left; two dozen very stale eggs took effect on his poll. This brought his resolve to a focus, and while shaking aloft his bony fist and wily long arm, he shouted—

"Look-a-here! yeou almighty cowardly, yaller saffron-colored, copper-headed polcats!—yeou darn'd eternal leather-complexioned mulatter cusses, yeou! I I wasn't a representin' the Saviour, I'd jest atrop myself, and lather every cuss of ye, till yer yaller hide wouldn't hold corn fodder, darn ye!"

This anathema of the Yankee was the

one for a general bombard, and finding he was likely to be pelted to death, "Down East" charged bayonet with his cross on the crowd and made hasty exit from the Carnival.

From the (Kenosha, Wisconsin) Truth Seeker.

THE HUMAN REASON.

It is by no means an uncommon thing to hear it asserted that there are subjects with reference to which Mankind may not use their Reason, and these subjects the very ones most intimately connected with Man's highest and most enduring interests. We discard such teaching, and earnestly desire that it may be universally discarded.

To say that Mankind may not use their reason with reference to those subjects more immediately connected with their eternal interest, is to say they may not exercise those exalted attributes out of which their immortality grows, with reference to that immortality. We owe our humanity to the possession of an intellectual and moral nature, and yet we are told that nature may not be exercised with reference to the highest interests of that humanity. Strange supposition!

We are well aware that human reason is fallible. It is complete and perfect in no one, and hence the necessity for its exercise. Reason and morality are the God within us, and as they expand we grow more in God like characteristics; they expand only by use, and what use so legitimate and proper as that relating immediately to eternal interests.

Our reason may be dark and may lead us astray, but none are infallible, and we are certainly quite as safe in the exercise of our own powers as in depending on others. It may be said we have God's revelations on these subjects, and to reason with reference to them would be to question them. But it will be seen by a moment's reflection that all of God's revelations, whether found in Books or Nature, possess significance to man in virtue alone of his reason. They possess no significance to the brute, because the brute has no reason. They possess little significance to the savage, because he has but little reason; and their significance to us, corresponds with our development. Thus, we perceive, that every succeeding generation has new views and occupies higher positions on these subjects, and it is instructive to trace the modification of religious theories in the christian world from early periods until the present time; down through the fiery crusades—through devastating civil wars—through persecution and martyrdom—through expatriation, and intolerance, modifying, mellowing, softening, becoming more humane with every succeeding age, until now, when wars of all kinds, the taking of human life under any circumstances, slavery, intemperance, viciousness, and intolerance of every nature, are falling into general condemnation. Just as, through the developments of science and progress in general knowledge, we see farther into Nature so do we know more of its author and more intelligently worship him.

The heavens were once to the race a sealed book, but astronomy has unfolded its leaves, and we read in every planet and every star exalted, sublime and truthful lessons, of the wisdom, the love, and the power of Him who created and set them in motion. And thus has every science and every discovery in science, whether celestial or terrestrial, whether pertaining to the world of matter or spirit, given us clearer ideas of the attributes of the parent, and modified into higher truths, our religious theories. Lay, if you please, the Bible at the foundation of human progress; we object not. All of God's revelations are addressed to Man's reason, and whether we seek God in Books or Nature, the longer we gaze the more truthfully do we see him, and as by seeing God in Nature we contemplate that Nature in a new and higher light, so do we continually obtain new conceptions from his word, and from his educational nature; develop better theories of religion corresponding with our higher light.

Then we must bear in mind, that it is not to one mind, nor a few minds, but to all minds, that God's revelations are addressed, because we are all equally his children, endowed with a common nature, and equally to all is a knowledge of these revelations essential. We may be taught, but no one can be wise for us; it is not by the knowledge others possess that we are blessed, but by that alone which we possess ourselves. We cannot love God through the knowledge possessed of him by another, but only through that knowledge we possess of him. Then we must exercise our minds with reference to all things, a knowledge of which is necessary to our happiness, because it is only by exercise that we can obtain or progress in such knowledge. The bird does not learn to fly by sitting timidly in the nest watching the aerial flight of its fellows; but it ventures forth, and though its excursions are at first both short and difficult, it soon attains a power and confidence which enables it to speed into the very eye of the sun, and bathe its wing in his golden ray. So must the

mind go forth, and however weak its first essay, it will gather strength with every effort until it is enabled to speed its flight into the very eye of the great spiritual sun and expand under life-giving power.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

I congratulate you and our country upon the favorable auspices under which you meet for your first session. Our country is at peace with all the world. The agitation which, for a time, threatened to disturb the fraternal relations which make us one people, is fast subsiding; and a year of general prosperity and health has crowned the nation with unequalled blessings. None can look back to the dangers which are passed, or forward to the bright prospect before us, without feeling a thrill of gratification, at the same time that he must be pressed with a grateful sense of our profound obligations to a beneficent Providence, whose paternal care is so manifest in the happiness of this highly favored land.

Since the close of the last Congress, certain Cubans and other foreigners resident in the United States, who were more or less concerned in the previous invasion of Cuba, instead of being discouraged by its failure, have again abused the hospitality of this country, by making it the scene of the equipment of another military expedition against that possession of her Catholic majesty, in which they were countenanced, aided and joined by citizens of the United States. On receiving intelligence that such designs were entertained, I lost no time in issuing such instructions to the proper officers of the United States as seemed to be called for by the occasion. By the proclamation, a copy of which is here submitted, I also warned those whose might be in danger of being inveigled into this scheme of its unlawful character, and of the penalties which they would incur. For some time there was reason to hope that these measures had sufficed to prevent any such attempt. This hope, however, proved to be delusive. Very early in the morning of the third of August, a steamer called the *Pampero* departed from New Orleans for Cuba, having on board upwards of four hundred armed men, with evident intentions to make war upon the authorities of the island. This expedition was set on foot in palpable violation of the laws of the United States. Its leader was a Spaniard, and several of the chief officers, and some others engaged in it, were foreigners. The persons composing it, however, were mostly citizens of the United States.

Before the expedition set out, and probably before it was organized, a slight insurrectionary movement, which appears to have been soon suppressed, had taken place in the eastern quarter of Cuba. The importance of this movement was unfortunately so much exaggerated in the accounts of it published in this country, that these adventurers seem to have been led to believe that the Creole population of the island not only desired to throw off the authority of the mother country, but had resolved upon that step, and had begun a well concerted enterprise for effecting it. The persons engaged in the expedition were generally young and ill-informed. The steamer in which they embarked left New Orleans stealthily and without a clearance. After touching at Key West, she proceeded to the coast of Cuba, and on the night between the 11th and 12th of August, landed the persons on board at Havana, within about twenty leagues of Pinar.

The main body of them proceeded to, and took possession of, an island village, six leagues distant, leaving others to follow in charge of the baggage, as soon as the means of transportation could be obtained. The latter, having taken up their line of march to connect themselves with the main body, and having proceeded about four leagues into the country, were attacked on the morning of the 13th, by a body of Spanish troops, and a bloody conflict ensued; after which they retreated to the place of disembarkation, where about fifty of them obtained boats, and re-embarked therein. They were, however, intercepted among the keys near the shore by a Spanish steamer cruising on the coast, captured, and carried to Havana, and after being examined before a military court, were sentenced to be publicly executed, and the sentence was carried into effect on the 16th of August.

On receiving information of what had occurred, Commodore Foxhall A. Parker was instructed to proceed in the steam frigate *Spartan* to Havana, and inquire into charges against the persons executed, the circumstances under which they were taken, and whatever referred to their trial and sentence. Copies of the instructions from the Department of State to him, and of his letters to that Department, are herewith submitted.

According to the record of the examination, the prisoners all admitted the offences charged against them, of being hostile invaders of the island. At the time of their trial and execution the main body of the invaders was still in the field, making war upon the Spanish authorities and Spanish subjects. After the lapse of some days, being overcome by the Spanish troops, they dispersed on the 24th of August; Lopez, their leader, was captured some days after, and executed on the 1st of September. Many of his remaining followers were killed, or died of hunger and fatigue, and the rest were made prisoners. Of these, none appear to have been tried or executed. Several of them were pardoned upon application of their friends and others, and the rest, about one hundred and sixty in number, were sent to Spain. Of the final disposition made of these we have no official information.

Such is the melancholy result of this illegal and ill-fated expedition. Thus, thoughtless young men have been induced by false and fraudulent representations, to violate the law of their country, through rash and unfounded expectations of assisting to accomplish political revolutions in other States, and have lost their lives in the undertaking. Too severe a judgment can hardly be passed, by the indignant sense of the community, upon those who, being better informed themselves, have yet led away the ardor of youth and an ill-directed love of political liberty. The correspondence between this Government and that of Spain relating to this transaction is herewith communicated.

Although these offenders against the laws have forfeited the protection of their country, yet our Government may, so far as is consistent with its obligations to other countries, and its faithful purpose to maintain and enforce the laws, entertain sympathy for their offending families and friends, as well as a feeling of compassion for themselves. Accordingly no proper effort has been spared, and none will be spared, to procure the release of such citizens of the United States, engaged in this unlawful enterprise, as are now in confinement in Spain; but it is to be hoped that such interposition with the government of that country may not be considered as affording any ground of expectation that the Government of the United States will, hereafter, feel itself under any obligation of duty to intercede for the liberation or pardon of such persons as are fugitive offenders against the law of nations and the laws of the United States. These laws must be executed. If we desire to maintain our respectability among the nations of the earth, it behooves us to enforce steadily and sternly the neutrality acts passed by Congress, and to follow, as far as may be, the violation of those acts with condign punishment.

But what gives a peculiar criminality to this invasion of Cuba, is, that under the lead of Spanish subjects and with the aid of citizens of the United States, it had its origin, with many, in motives of cupidity. Money was advanced by individuals, probably in considerable amounts to purchase Cuban bonds, as they have been called, issued by Lopez, sold, doubtless, at a very large discount, and for the payment of which the public lands and public property of Cuba, of whatever kind, and the fiscal resources of the people and government of that island, from whatever source to be derived, were pledged, as well as the good faith of the government expected to be established. All these means of payment, it is evident, were only to be obtained by a process of bloodshed, war, and revolution. None will deny that those who set on foot military expeditions against foreign States by means like these, are far more culpable than the ignorant and the necessitous whom they induce to go forth as the ostensible parties in the proceeding. These originators of the invasion of Cuba seem to have determined, with coolness and system, upon an undertaking which should disgrace their country, violate its laws, and put to hazard the lives of ill-informed and deluded men. You will consider whether further legislation be necessary to prevent the perpetration of such offences in future.

No individuals have a right to hazard the peace of the country or to violate its laws, upon vague notions of altering or reforming governments in other States. This principle is not only reasonable in itself, and in accordance with public law, but is engrained into the codes of other nations as well as our own. But while such are the sentiments of this Government, it may be added that every independent nation must be presumed to be able to defend its possessions against unauthorized individuals landed together to attack them. The government of the United States, at all times since its establishment, has abstained and sought to restrain the citizens of the country from entering into controversies between other powers, and to observe all the duties of neutrality. At an early period of the Government, in the administration of Washington, several laws were passed for

this purpose. The main provisions of these laws were re-enacted by the act of April, 1818; by which, among other things, it was declared that if any person, shall, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States, begin, or set on foot, or provide, or prepare the means for any military expedition or enterprise to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominion of any foreign prince or State, or of any colony, district, or people, with whom the United States are at peace, every person so offending, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be fined, not exceeding three thousand dollars, and imprisoned more than three years; and this law has been executed and enforced, to the full extent of the power of that government, from that day to this.

In proclaiming and adhering to the doctrine of neutrality and non-interference, the United States have not followed the lead of other civilized nations; they have taken the lead themselves, and have been followed by others. This was admitted by one of the most eminent of modern British statesmen, who said in Parliament, while a minister of the crown, "that if he wished for a guide in a system of neutrality, he should take that laid down by America in the days of Washington (and the secretaryship of Jefferson); and was so, in fact, that the act of Congress of 1818 was followed, the succeeding years, by an act of the Parliament of England, substantially the same in its general provisions. Up to that time there had been no similar law in England, except certain highly penal statutes in the reign of George II, prohibiting English subjects from enlisting in foreign service, the avowed object of which statutes was, that foreign armies, raised for the purpose of restoring the house of Stuart to the throne, should not be strengthened by recruits from England herself."

All must see that difficulties may arise in carrying the laws referred to into execution in a country now having three or four thousand miles of sea coast, with an infinite number of ports and harbors and small islands, from some of which unlawful expeditions may suddenly set forth, with the knowledge of Government, against the possession of foreign States.

Friendly relations with all, but entangling alliances with none, has long been our maxim with us. Our true mission is to propagate our principles, or impose upon other countries our form of government, by artifice or force; but teach by example and show by our success, moderation and justice, the blessings of self-government, and the advantages of free institutions. Let every people choose for itself, and make and alter its political institutions to suit its own condition and convenience. But, while we avow and maintain this neutral policy ourselves, we are anxious to see the same forbearance on the part of other nations, whose forms of government are so different from our own. The deep interest which we feel in the spread of liberal principles and the establishment of free governments, and the sympathy with which we witness every struggle against oppression, forbid that we should be indifferent to a case in which the strong arm of a foreign power is invoked to stifle public sentiment and repress the spirit of freedom in any country.

The governments of Great Britain and France have issued orders to their naval commanders on the West India station to prevent, by force, if necessary, the landing of adventurers, from any nation on the island of Cuba with hostile intent. The copy of a memorandum of conversation on the subject between the *Chirque de Affairs of her Britannic Majesty* and the Acting Secretary of State, and of a subsequent note of the former to the department of State, are herewith submitted, together with a copy of a note of the Acting Secretary of State to the Minister of the French Republic, and of the reply of the latter, on the same subject. These papers will acquaint you with the ground of this interposition of the two leading commercial powers of Europe, and with the apprehensions, which this Government should not fail to entertain, that such interposition, if carried into effect, might lead to abridges to derogation of the maritime rights of the United States. The maritime rights of the United States are founded on a firm, secure, and well defined basis; they stand upon the ground of National Independence and public law, and will be maintained in all their full and just extent.

The principle which this government has heretofore solemnly announced it will adhere to; and will maintain under all circumstances and at all hazards. That principle is, that in every regularly documented merchant vessel, the crew who navigate it, and those on board of it, will find their protection in the flag which is over them. No American ship can be allowed to be visited or searched for the purpose of ascertaining the character of individuals on board, nor can there be allowed any search by the vessels of any foreign nation over American vessels on the coast of the United States or the seas adjacent thereto. It will be seen by the last communication from the British Charge de Affairs to